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open top of the housing and having an enlarged opening therein for receiving the actuator member,
and

a flexible and resilient member covering the cap and [providing a fluid-tight seal around]
closing the opening therein while accommodating manual actuation of the actuator member from
above the cap.

Please cancel claim 1.

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated May 30, 2000. Reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of this Amendment is respectfully asked.

Applicants wish to thank examiner Eloschway for the courtesy of the telephone interview with applicants' undersigned attorney on Thursday, June 15, 2000. In that interview the present Amendment was discussed, but no agreement was reached.

Claims 1-9 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or 103 as being anticipated by or unpatentable over various combinations of reference. Claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 2-9 have been amended to change the dependency thereof to claim 10 and to track with the language of claim 10.

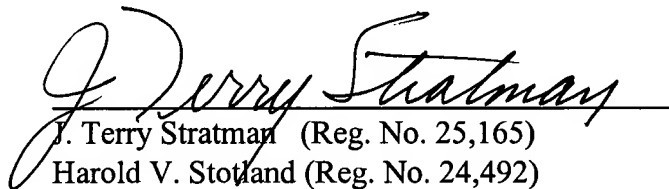
Claims 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Craigmile in view of Olson, either alone or further in view of one or more of Tourot and LaPland, all of record. In support of the rejection, the examiner asserts that the Craigmile cap 40 connects to the housing over the open top 30 and thus forms an "upstanding top wall" that performs the claimed function.

Claim 10 has been amended to specify that the housing has "a central axis" and to further

recite an "enlarged" actuator member "having a lateral extent substantially greater than that of the stem" and a cap "forming the top wall of the housing extending transversely of the axis" and having an "enlarged" opening therein for receiving the actuator member, and a flexible and resilient member "covering the cap and closing the opening therein." No such arrangement is disclosed or suggested by the cited references. The Craigmile cap 40 does not form a top wall of the housing "extending transversely of the axis," nor is it covered by the flexible and resilient member 42. LaPland has a cap 15 which forms a top wall extending transversely of the axis, but it is not covered by a flexible and resilient member, nor does it have an enlarged opening therein. Furthermore, none of the cited references has a valve stem with an enlarged actuator, in an enlarged opening in a cap. For all of these reasons it is submitted that, as amended, claim 10 and the claims dependent thereon are now patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, allowance of the remaining claims 2-17 is respectfully asked.

Applicants respectfully request that their undersigned attorney be advised of the disposition of this Amendment before the expiration of the three-month statutory response period on August 30.

Respectfully submitted,


J. Terry Stratman (Reg. No. 25,165)
Harold V. Stotland (Reg. No. 24,492)

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